



SRS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Bill Lawless
Vice Chair: Harold Rahn and Darryl Nettles

WSRC Support:
Kelly Way

Committee Scope

This Committee addresses the treatment, storage and disposal of various waste streams, including transuranic waste (TRU), low-level waste (LLW), mixed low-level waste (MLLW) and high-level waste (HLW). They do this with the goal of reducing the highest risk to the public, workers, and the environment. The Committee also addresses issues related to transportation of waste and Environmental Management Integration (EMI), exclusive of the nuclear materials program.

Priority Issues for 2004

Integrated High Level Waste System and Related Issues.

The WIR lawsuit impacts salt processing and tank space. To process through DWPF, SRS must process salt. To process salt, the WIR must be resolved. DHEC believes that this can be resolved without Congress getting involved. This topic involves a combination of low curie salt, the actinide removal process, saltstone, waste removal, tank closure, Waste on Wheels, and the Salt waste processing facility.

Importance: The CAB need to follow how the site will technically be able to resolve the WIR related issues, process salt waste, and close tanks.

Transuranic Waste Program

DOE began shipments of its TRU waste to WIPP in 2001, and exceptional progress has been made. However, many barriers, such as inventory issues, shipping containers, and drummed waste with high Pu loading, still exist.

Importance: The CAB needs to stay abreast of the TRU shipments to WIPP. A WIPP waste acceptance permit modification is being proposed, and if passed, will greatly impact the SRS waste. There will be no waste repository for waste generated from new missions or for waste that has already been shipped to SRS for storage at WIPP.

Glass Waste Storage Building and Yucca Mountain

GWSB #2 will be needed by October 2006, because GWSB #1 will be filled. The original dates for the opening of Yucca Mountain may have been changed from 2010 to 2019. The WM Committee questions if the repository will open and (if it does) if there will be room for SRS waste. At one time, SR waste was on a priority list. This no longer appears to be the case.

Importance: If the canisters are indeed going to be shipped from SR to Yucca, the GWSB #2 building plans need to include shipping facilities. To date, there are no such facilities included in the plans. More importantly, the committee does not want vitrified high level waste left in SC permanently.

Low Level Waste Management (LLW)

The accelerated D&D program can not continue without a good LLW management program. Future potential missions, such as MOX or the Tritium Extraction facility, depend on active and robust LLW disposal options.

The WM Committee plans to stay apprised of waste management options as they relate to existing and new missions at the site.

Suggested Reading

Solid Waste Division Annual Report

Site Treatment Plan

Solid Waste Division System Plan

High Level Waste System Plan

Tank Closure EIS Executive Summary

Environmental Management Performance Management Plan